



**National NeighborWorks®
Association**

Advocacy 201

NNA Legislative Day 2024

@NNA_US

#NeighborWorksWorks

#NNAHillDay2024

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“All advocacy is, at its core, an exercise in empathy.”

Samantha Power, Administrator of USAID, former US Ambassador to UN

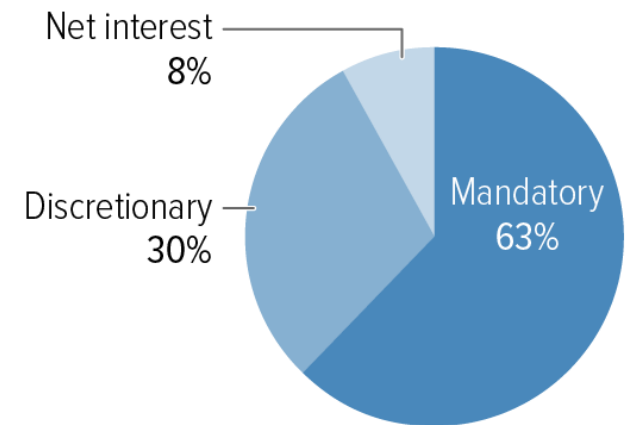


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- The appropriations process deals with only discretionary and not mandatory spending (Medicare, Social Security, SNAP...)
- Like most federal programs, NeighborWorks America is a discretionary program.

Types of Federal Spending, Fiscal Year 2023



Note: Does not add to 100 percent due to rounding.
Source: Congressional Budget Office

CENTER ON BUDGET AND POLICY PRIORITIES | CBPP.ORG

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- President's budget request kicks off Federal Budget Process – NeighborWorks America develops request with Office of Management and Budget (OMB)
- NeighborWorks America attempts to justify a different funding level, gives back to OMB
- OMB takes into consideration, or not, NeighborWorks® America's proposed funding level and presents to Congress
- President's Budget was released on Monday, March 11th

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The President proposes, Congress disposes...

- The House historically acts first, gives time to advocate for funding, passes spending bill out of House.
- The Senate acts, independently from House, gives time to advocate for funding, passes spending bill out of Senate.

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- The House and Senate goes into Conference to come to agreement, vote, and send to President for signature (in an ideal world...)
- If process goes past Sep 30, continuing resolution (CR) or government shutdown
- Where are we now?? – a developing story

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How do Appropriators know what to include for an entire Fiscal Year spending bill?

- Congressional Budget Justifications from the Executive Branch
- Member requests: Individual and Dear Colleague letters
- Outside request from stakeholders, lobbyists, and advocates
- Budget Resolution? – Usually not.
- Spending levels set by Full Committee
 - 302(a): Total federal discretionary spending
 - 302(b): Allocations for each of the 12 subcommittees

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Fiscal Year	President's Request	Appropriations Amount & Purpose
FY2025	<i>\$168 million</i>	<i>TBD</i>
FY2024	<i>\$172 million</i>	<i>\$158 million (core)</i>
FY2023	\$170 million	\$166 million (core) + \$4 million for shared equity
FY2022	\$170 million	\$163 million (core) + \$3 million for shared equity
FY2021	\$27.4 million	\$163 million (core) + \$2 million for shared equity
FY2020	\$27.4 million	\$157.5 million (core) + \$1 million for shared equity
FY2019	\$27.4 million	\$150 million (core) + \$2 million for shared equity
FY2018	\$27.4 million	\$140 million (core)
FY2017	\$140 million	\$140 million (core)
FY2016	\$136 million	\$135 million (core) + \$40 million for Natl Foreclosure Mitigation & Counseling

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OUR FY25 ASK:

\$185 Million for NeighborWorks America

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“Budgets are tight this year.”

We understand that budgets are tight, and continue to tighten, but with an average leverage of \$59 for every \$1 dollar of NeighborWorks® America funds awarded, now is the time to invest even more into organizations like NeighborWorks® America that helps fill the gap of much-needed housing, efficiently and effectively.

NeighborWorks is a good place to invest during years of plenty, and it’s an even better place to invest when budgets are lean.

How will cuts to NeighborWorks funding impact your organization and the communities you serve?

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How to move our ask

- Telling our story to the Hill
- Dear Colleague Letters/Individual Requests
 - Online portal submissions
- Engaging the decision makers



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Telling our story to the Hill

- Advocacy 101 – watch Zoom recording/review slides
- NeighborWorks America infographics – state and national
- Bring YOUR story to the conversation
- Making the connection – the ask – the thank you

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Dear Colleague Letters

History of bicameral support

- House FY24 letter, bipartisan – 129 signatures (120 D, 9 R)
 - Co-led by Representatives Jenniffer González Colón (PR-AL) and Suzanne Bonamici (OR-01).
- Senate FY24 letter, D caucus only – 43 signatures
 - Led by Senator Jacky Rosen (NV)

Individual Member Requests – if a Congressman/ Senator won't sign the Dear Colleague, ask them to include in their Individual Requests!

The more signatures on a Dear Colleague or Individual Requests, the stronger the case for the Appropriations Committees to include a high \$\$ amount for NeighborWorks America!

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Engagement in Advance of Hill Day

Depending on the Appropriations Committees' FY25 deadlines, you may need to communicate your funding request for NeighborWorks America in advance of Hill Day, including by:

- Sending emails to each office's housing staffer detailing our \$185M NWA funding request and asking that their boss sign on to the Dear Colleague letter.
- For Members/Senators with public appropriations request forms on their websites— submitting the NWA \$185M funding request via their webforms.

[EXAMPLE FORM](#)

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This Year:

- Split Congress can make things a bit interesting for funding affordable housing programs
- It's a good thing NeighborWorks America has bicameral and bipartisan support year after year!
 - Nothing gets into the Appropriations bills without four corner support – your advocacy makes a difference
- Individual Member Requests – very important

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Research Tips to Prepare for Member Office Meetings

- What Committees does your member sit on? (Appropriations, Ways & Means, Finance, Banking, Financial Services, Agriculture, Indian Affairs..)
- What housing or community development-related bills has your member signed on to in the past?
- What housing or community development reforms has your member supported during the campaign cycle?
 - Campaign and official Congressional offices are separate like church and state, but you can still let a Member office know you appreciate their general support for an issue you care about!

HOW TO IMPROVE YOUR MESSAGING

NeighborWorks Organizations provide that “secret sauce” in supporting communities

- Be specific! What do NeighborWorks America grants allow you to do that you couldn't do with any other Federal program?
- Share your impact – public private partnerships, positive relationships with businesses
 - This especially helps when meeting with GOP members who need to be convince that the Federal government should invest in affordable housing

Know your audience – research and preparation is key to a successful and convincing discussion!

Make a local connection

- They are representatives of their district/ state before party affiliation
- Share local landmarks or points of reference to your projects or properties to further engage Congressional staff

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Engaging Decision Makers

- Senate Committee on Appropriations – Chair, Senator Patty Murray (WA)
 - Vice Chair, Senator Susan Collins (ME)
- House Committee on Appropriations – Chair, Representative Kay Granger (TX-12)
 - Ranking Member, Representative Rosa DeLauro (CT-03),



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Senate THUD – Majority

- *Brian Schatz (HI), Chair*
- Patty Murray (WA)
- Dick Durbin (IL)
- Jack Reed (RI)
- Chris Coons (DE)
- Chris Murphy (CT)
- Joe Manchin (WV)
- Chris Van Hollen (MD)
- Kyrsten Sinema (AZ)



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Senate THUD - Minority

- *Cindy Hyde-Smith (MS), Ranking Member*
- Susan Collins (ME)
- John Boozman (AR)
- Shelley Moore Capito (WV)
- Lindsey Graham (SC)
- John Hoeven (ND)
- John Kennedy (LA)
- Jerry Moran (KS)



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House THUD - Majority

- *Tom Cole (OK-04) – Chair*
- Mario Diaz-Balart (FL-26)
- Steve Womack (AR-03)
- John Rutherford (FL-05)
- Tony Gonzalez (TX-23)
- David Valadao (CA-22)
- Ben Cline (VA-06)
- Ryan Zinke (MT-01)
- Juan Ciscomani (AZ-06)



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House THUD – Minority

- *Mike Quigley (IL-05) – Ranking Member*
- Bonnie Watson Coleman (NJ-12)
- Norma Torres (CA-35)
- Pete Aguilar (CA-33)
- Adriano Espaillat (NY-13)
- Jennifer Wexton (VA-10)



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Full Senate Appropriations Committee

- Lisa Murkowski (R-AK)
- Katie Britt (R-AL)
- John Boozman (R-AR)
- Kyrsten Sinema (D-AZ)
- Chris Murphy (D-CT)
- Chris Coons (D-DE)
- Marco Rubio (R-FL)
- Brian Schatz (D-HI)
- Dick Durbin (D-IL)
- Jerry Moran (R-KS)
- Mitch McConnell (R-KY)
- John Kennedy (R-LA)
- Chris Van Hollen (D-MD)
- Susan Collins (R-ME)
- Gary Peters (D-MI)
- Cindy Hyde-Smith (R-MS)
- Jon Tester (D-MT)
- John Hoeven (R-ND)
- Deb Fischer (R-NE)
- Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH)
- Martin Heinrich (D-NM)
- Jeff Merkley (D-OR)
- Jack Reed (D-RI)
- Lindsey Graham (R-SC)
- Bill Hagerty (R-TN)
- Patty Murray (D-WA)
- Tammy Baldwin (D-WI)
- Joe Manchin (D-WV)
- Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV)

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Full House Appropriations Committee

- Jerry Carl (R-AL-01)
- Robert Aderholt (R-AL-04)
- Steve Womack (R-AR-03)
- Juan Ciscomani (R-AZ-06)
- Josh Harder (D-CA-09)
- Barbara Lee (D-CA-12)
- David Valadao (R-CA-22)
- Mike Garcia (R-CA-27)
- Pete Aguilar (D-CA-33)
- Norma Torres (D-CA-35)
- Ken Calvert (R-CA-41)
- Rosa DeLauro (D-CT-03)
- John Rutherford (R-FL-05)
- Scott Franklin (R-FL-18)
- Lois Frankel (D-FL-22)
- Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL-25)

- Mario Díaz-Balart (R-FL-26)
- Sanford Bishop (D-GA-02)
- Andrew Clyde (R-GA-09)
- Ed Case (D-HI-01)
- Ashley Hinson (R-IA-02)
- Mike Simpson (R-ID-02)
- Mike Quigley (D-IL-05)
- Lauren Underwood (D-IL-14)
- Jake LaTurner (R-KS-02)
- Hal Rogers (R-KY-05)
- Julia Letlow (R-LA-05)
- Andy Harris (R-MD-01)
- Dutch Ruppersberger (D-MD-02)
- Steny Hoyer (D-MD-05)
- David Trone (D-MD-06)
- Chellie Pingree (D-ME-01)
- John Moolenaar (R-MI-02)
- Betty McCollum (D-MN-04)
- Michael Guest (R-MS-03)
- Ryan Zinke (R-MT-01)
- Chuck Edwards (R-NC-11)
- Bonnie Watson Coleman (D-NJ-12)
- Mark Amodei (R-NV-02)
- Susie Lee (D-NV-03)
- Grace Meng (D-NY-06)
- Adriano Espaillat (D-NY-13)
- Joseph Morelle (D-NY-25)
- Marcy Kaptur (D-OH-09)

- David Joyce (R-OH-14)
- Tom Cole (R-OK-04)
- Stephanie Bice (R-OK-05)
- Matt Cartwright (D-PA-08)
- Guy Reschenthaler (R-PA-14)
- Chuck Fleischmann (R-TN-03)
- Jake Ellzey (R-TX-06)
- Kay Granger (R-TX-12)
- Tony Gonzales (R-TX-23)
- Michael Cloud (R-TX-27)
- Henry Cuellar (D-TX-28)
- John Carter (R-TX-31)
- Ben Cline (R-VA-06)
- Jennifer Wexton (D-VA-10)
- Dan Newhouse (R-WA-04)
- Derek Kilmer (D-WA-06)
- Mark Pocan (D-WI-02)

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House Retirements

- Ruben Gallego (D-AZ-03)
- Debbie Lesko (R-AZ-08)
- Barbara Lee (D-CA-12)
- Anna Eshoo (D-CA-16)
- Tony Cardenas (D-CA-29)
- Adam Schiff (D-CA-30)
- Grace Napolitano (D-CA-31)
- Katie Porter (D-CA-47)
- Ken Buck (R-CO-04)
- Doug Lamborn (R-CO-05)
- Lisa Blunt Rochester (D-DE-AL)
- Drew Ferguson (R-GA-03)
- Jim Banks (R-IN-03)
- Greg Pence (R-IN-06)
- Larry Bucshon (R-IN-08)
- Dutch Ruppersberger (D-MD-02)
- John Sarbanes (D-MD-03)
- David Trone (D-MD-06)
- Blaine Luetkemeyer (R-MI-03)
- Elissa Slotkin (D-MI-07)
- Dan Kildee (D-MI-08)
- Dean Phillips (D-MN-03)
- Matt Rosendale (R-MT-02)
- Kathy Manning (D-NC-06)
- Dan Bishop (R-NC-08)
- Patrick McHenry (R-NC-10)
- Wiley Nickel (D-NC-13)
- Jeff Jackson (D-NC-14)
- Kelly Armstrong (R-ND-AL)
- Andy Kim (D-NJ-03)
- Brad Wenstrup (R-OH-02)
- Earl Blumenauer (D-OR-03)
- Jeff Duncan (R-SC-03)
- Kay Granger (R-TX-12)
- Michael Burgess (R-TX-26)
- Colin Allred (D-TX-32)
- John Curtis (R-UT-03)
- Abigail Spanberger (D-VA-07)
- Jennifer Wexton (D-VA-10)
- Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA-05)
- Derek Kilmer (D-WA-06)
- Mike Gallagher (R-WI-08)
- Alex Mooney (R-WV-02)

VACANT

- CA-20 (Kevin McCarthy, R)
- NY-26 (Brian Higgins, D)
- OH-06 (Bill Johnson, R)

Senate Retirements

- Kyrsten Sinema (I-AZ)
- Laphonza Butler (D-CA)
- Tom Carper (D-DE)
- Mike Braun (R-IN)
- Ben Cardin (D-MD)
- Debbie Stabenow (D-MI)
- Mitt Romney (R-UT)
- Joe Manchin (D-WV)

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Questions?



Resource:

[2024 NNA Legislative Day Landing Page](#)